

#### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph 3 which is on page 1 of the application with the following amended paragraph:

Glycerol is an extremely useful synthon for the synthesis of many important biochemicals and pharmaceuticals. It can be used as a labeling synthon but has limitations. Glycerol has previously been labeled in a variety of ways with  $^{13}\text{C}$ ,  $^{14}\text{C}$  and  $^2\text{H}$ . For example, Siskos et al., Tetrahedron Letters, vol. 44, pp. 789-792 (2003) describe the synthesis of  $[1-^{13}\text{C}, ^{18}\text{O}]$  and  $[1-^{13}\text{C}, ^2\text{H}_2]$ -glycerol; Barber describes the synthesis of  $[1-^{13}\text{C}]$ -glycerol; and Pitlik et al., J. Labelled Cpd. and Radiopharm., vol. XXXIX, No. 12, pp. 999-1009 (1997) describe the synthesis of  $^2\text{H}$ - and  $^{13}\text{C}$ -labeled glycerols such as  $[1,1-^2\text{H}_2, 1,2-^{13}\text{C}]$ glycerol. Labeled glycerols can be used in the elucidation of biochemical pathways, e.g., Cho et al., J. Org. Chem., vol. 58, pp. 7925-7928 (1993) describe the incorporation of labeled glycerol samples into the  $\text{mC}_7\text{N}$  unit of asukamycin. Some labeled glycerols have also been prepared with chirality, e.g., Nieschalk et al., Tetrahedron: Asymmetry, vol. 8, No. 14, pp. 2325-2330 (1997) describe four stereoisomers of  $[^2\text{H}]$ -glycerol; Matteson et al., J. Am. Chem. Soc., vol. 112, 3964-3969 (1990) describe stereoisomers of deuterated glycerol; and Blackmore et al., Journal of Labelled Compounds, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 71-76 (1972) describe the preparation of L- $[1-^{14}\text{C}]$ -glycerol.

Please replace paragraph 11 which is on page 9 of the application with the following amended paragraph:

The reactivity of a labeled acetic acid, (dimethylamino)oxo-, ethyl esters can be tailored to produce a variety of labeled biochemicals and pharmaceuticals with predictable regioselectivity. Preparation of such labeled acetic acid, (dimethylamino)oxo-, ethyl esters is described in U.S. Patent 6,753,446, issued on June 22, 2004 by Martinez et al. for "Synthesis of Labeled Oxalic Acid Derivatives", such description incorporated herein by reference. For example, a general reaction for the production of isotopically labeled glycerol using such a reagent can be as follows.